(b) Studies are conducted by Railways from time to time with the objective of improving efficiency and level of service.

(c) does not arise.

Railway revenues from passenger and freight services

2907. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passenger services account for 59 percent of the rail traffic but contribute only 30 per cent of the revenues, while the freight services constitute 41 per cent thereof but generate 70 per cent of the total Railway income;

(b) if so, the reasons for this lop sides generation; and

(c) whether the Planning Commission, in its mid-term appraisal has called upon the Railways to correct this imbalance; if so, the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the revised estimates for the year 1999-2000 passenger services accounted for nearly 59 percent of the rail traffic and contributed to approximately 29 percent of the revenue. The freight services constituting about 41 percent of the rail traffic generated approximately 71 percent of the total revenue.

(b) The reason for the differential in generation of revenue from passenger and freight services is that the Railways have been following a policy of restraint in increasing passenger fares as part of their public service obligations. This has caused internal cross subsidisation of passenger fares from freight traffic earnings.

(c) The Mid-Term Review is still under finalisation with the Planning Commission.

Tatkal Seva reservation scheme

† 2908. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tatkal Seva Reservation Scheme has been extended in all the passenger trains in order to reduce the difficulties faced by the passengers;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.